

# HOUSE BILL No. 6247

June 18, 2008, Introduced by Rep. Hopgood and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278b (MCL 380.1278b), as amended by 2007 PA  
141.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
2 or section 1278a, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,  
3 as part of the requirements under section 1278a the board of a  
4 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
5 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
6 has successfully completed all of the following credit requirements  
7 of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from high school:

8       (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are  
9 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the

1 department and approved by the state board under this section.

2 (b) At least 3 credits in science that are aligned with  
3 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
4 approved by the state board under this section, including  
5 completion of at least biology and either chemistry or physics. The  
6 legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit  
7 in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth science,  
8 agricultural science, environmental science, geology, physics or  
9 chemistry, physiology, or microbiology.

10 (c) The credit requirements specified in section 1278a(1)(a)(i)  
11 to (iv).

12 (2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high  
13 school credits required under subsection (1) or under section  
14 1278a(1) before entering high school, the pupil shall be given high  
15 school credit for that credit.

16 (3) For the purposes of this section and section 1278a, the  
17 department shall do all of the following:

18 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to  
19 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are  
20 required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i)  
21 and (ii) and develop guidelines for the remaining credit  
22 requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are required under  
23 this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the online course or  
24 learning experience required under section 1278a(1)(b), and for the  
25 requirements for a language other than English under section  
26 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these subject area content  
27 expectations and guidelines:

1           (i) All subject area content expectations shall be consistent  
2 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum  
3 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content  
4 expectations or guidelines shall not include attitudes, beliefs, or  
5 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and  
6 social structure of our society and to the personal and social  
7 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content  
8 expectations shall require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking  
9 skills.

10          (ii) The subject area content expectations and the guidelines  
11 must be approved by the state board under subsection (4).

12          (iii) The subject area content expectations shall state in clear  
13 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon  
14 completion of each credit.

15          (iv) The department shall complete the development of the  
16 subject area content expectations that apply to algebra I and the  
17 guidelines for the online course or learning experience under  
18 section 1278a(1)(b) not later than August 1, 2006.

19          (v) The department shall complete development of the subject  
20 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the  
21 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under  
22 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before  
23 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high  
24 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

25          (vi) If the department has not completed development of the  
26 subject area content expectations that apply to a particular credit  
27 required in the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or

1 section 1278a(1)(a) by the date required under this subdivision, a  
2 school district or public school academy may align the content of  
3 the credit with locally adopted standards.

4 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and  
5 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by  
6 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least  
7 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees  
8 responsible for education legislation on the status of the  
9 development of the subject area content expectations and  
10 guidelines. The report shall detail any failure by the department  
11 to meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and  
12 the reasons for that failure.

13 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject  
14 area content expectations and guidelines required under this  
15 section. This process shall provide for all of the following:

16 (i) Soliciting input from all of the following groups:

17 (A) Recognized experts in the relevant subject areas.

18 (B) Representatives from 4-year colleges or universities,  
19 community colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

20 (C) Teachers, administrators, and school personnel who have  
21 specialized knowledge of the subject area.

22 (D) Representatives from the business community.

23 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical  
24 education providers.

25 (F) Government officials, including officials from the  
26 legislature.

27 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

1           (ii) A review of the subject area content expectations or  
2 guidelines by national experts.

3           (iii) An opportunity for the public to review and provide input  
4 on the proposed subject area content expectations or guidelines  
5 before they are submitted to the state board for approval. The time  
6 period allowed for this review and input shall be at least 15  
7 business days.

8           (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet  
9 access required for pupils to complete the online course or  
10 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit  
11 that determination to the state board for approval.

12          (d) Develop and make available material to assist school  
13 districts and public school academies in implementing the  
14 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This shall include  
15 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery  
16 methods as described in subsection (7).

17          (4) The state board shall approve subject area content  
18 expectations and guidelines developed by the department under  
19 subsection (3) before those subject area content expectations and  
20 guidelines may take effect. The state board also shall approve the  
21 basic level of technology and internet access required for pupils  
22 to complete the online course or learning experience requirement of  
23 section 1278a(1)(b).

24          (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil **WHO HAS COMPLETED**  
25 **AT LEAST 1 SEMESTER OR TRIMESTER OF GRADE 10** may request a personal  
26 curriculum under this subsection for the pupil that modifies  
27 certain of the Michigan merit standard requirements under

1 subsection (1) or section 1278a(1)(a). **A TEACHER, SCHOOL COUNSELOR,**  
2 **OR PERSON ACTING IN A COUNSELING ROLE MAY CONTACT A PUPIL'S PARENT**  
3 **OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY AND POTENTIAL BENEFITS**  
4 **OF A PERSONAL CURRICULUM UNDER THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE PUPIL.** If

5 all of the requirements under this subsection for a personal  
6 curriculum are met, then the board of a school district or board of  
7 directors of a public school academy may award a high school  
8 diploma to a pupil who successfully completes his or her personal  
9 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the

10 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section  
11 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

12 (a) The personal curriculum shall be developed by a group that  
13 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or  
14 the pupil's legal guardian, **A TEACHER WHO TEACHES AT THE HIGH**  
15 **SCHOOL,** and the pupil's high school counselor or another designee  
16 qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a  
17 selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a pupil who  
18 receives special education services, a school psychologist should  
19 also be included in this group.

20 (b) The personal curriculum shall incorporate as much of the  
21 subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit standard  
22 required under subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is  
23 practicable for the pupil; shall establish measurable goals that  
24 the pupil must achieve while enrolled in high school and shall  
25 provide a method to evaluate whether the pupil achieved these  
26 goals; and shall be aligned with the pupil's educational  
27 development plan developed under subsection (11).

1 (c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be  
2 agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the  
3 superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the  
4 public school academy or his or her designee.

5 (d) The pupil's parent or legal guardian shall be in  
6 communication with each of the pupil's teachers at least once each  
7 calendar quarter to monitor the pupil's progress toward the goals  
8 contained in the pupil's personal curriculum.

9 (e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the  
10 revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the  
11 original personal curriculum.

12 (f) The English language arts credit requirements of  
13 subsection (1)(a) and the science credit requirements of subsection  
14 (1)(b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal  
15 curriculum under this subsection.

16 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the  
17 mathematics credit requirements of section 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be  
18 modified as part of a personal curriculum only after the pupil has  
19 successfully completed at least ~~2-1/2~~**1-1/2** credits of the  
20 mathematics credits required under that section and only if the  
21 pupil successfully completes at least 3-1/2 total credits of the  
22 mathematics credits required under that section before completing  
23 high school. The requirement under ~~that~~ section **1278A(1)** that a  
24 pupil must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course  
25 during his or her final year of high school enrollment is not  
26 subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum under this  
27 subsection. The algebra II credit required under that section may

1 be modified as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection  
2 only if the pupil has successfully completed at least 2 credits of  
3 the mathematics credits required under section 1278a(1)(a)(i) and  
4 meets 1 or more of the following:

5 (i) Has successfully completed the same content as 1 semester  
6 of algebra II, as determined by the department.

7 (ii) Elects to complete the same content as algebra II over 2  
8 years, with a credit awarded for each of those 2 years, and  
9 successfully completes that content.

10 (iii) Enrolls in a formal career and technical education program  
11 or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully  
12 completes the same content as 1 semester of algebra II, as  
13 determined by the department.

14 (h) The social science credit requirements of section  
15 1278a(1)(a)(ii) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum  
16 only if all of the following are met:

17 (i) The pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the  
18 social science credits required under section 1278a(1), including  
19 the civics course described in section 1166(2).

20 (ii) The modification requires the pupil to complete 1  
21 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science  
22 or 1 additional credit in a language other than English. This  
23 additional credit must be in addition to the number of those  
24 credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and section  
25 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

26 (i) The health and physical education credit requirement under  
27 section 1278a(1)(a)(iii) may be modified as part of a personal



1 curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil to complete  
2 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or  
3 science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English.  
4 This additional credit must be in addition to the number of those  
5 credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and section  
6 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

7 (j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit  
8 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(iv) may be modified as part of  
9 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil  
10 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,  
11 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other  
12 than English. This additional credit must be in addition to the  
13 number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and  
14 section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

15 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as  
16 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the  
17 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be  
18 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification  
19 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the  
20 school district or public school academy may allow that additional  
21 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's  
22 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the  
23 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational  
24 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's  
25 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public  
26 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a  
27 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with

1 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public  
2 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school  
3 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school  
4 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance  
5 with the requirements for additional modifications under this  
6 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"  
7 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

8 (l) If a pupil transfers to a school district or public school  
9 academy from out of state or from a nonpublic school, the pupil's  
10 parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the pupil's  
11 personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan merit standard  
12 requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this  
13 section. The school district or public school academy may allow  
14 this additional modification for a transfer pupil if all of the  
15 following are met:

16 (i) The transfer pupil has successfully completed at least the  
17 equivalent of 2 years of high school credit out of state or at a  
18 nonpublic school. The school district or public school academy may  
19 use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits,  
20 if any, the pupil has earned out of state or at a nonpublic school  
21 that may be used to satisfy the curricular requirements of the  
22 Michigan merit standard and this subdivision.

23 (ii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum incorporates as  
24 much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit  
25 standard as is practicable for the pupil.

26 (iii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum requires the  
27 pupil to successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during

1 his or her final year of high school enrollment. In addition, if  
2 the transfer pupil is enrolled in the school district or public  
3 school academy for at least 1 full school year, both of the  
4 following apply:

5 (A) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum shall require  
6 that this mathematics course is at least algebra I.

7 (B) If the transfer pupil demonstrates that he or she has  
8 mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer pupil's personal  
9 curriculum shall require that this mathematics course is a course  
10 normally taken after completing algebra I.

11 (iv) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum includes the  
12 civics course described in section 1166(2).

13 (m) If a pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor,  
14 the pupil may act on his or her own behalf under this subsection.

15 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a  
16 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section  
17 1278a(5) and that is exempt under that section from the English  
18 language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social  
19 science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

20 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the  
21 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the  
22 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law  
23 91-230, shall identify the appropriate course or courses of study  
24 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications  
25 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular  
26 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal  
27 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the

1 requirements for a high school diploma.

2 (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a  
3 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that  
4 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to  
5 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.  
6 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by  
7 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a,  
8 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as  
9 alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and  
10 technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational  
11 education, or by a combination of these. School districts and  
12 public school academies that operate career and technical education  
13 programs are encouraged to integrate the credit requirements of  
14 this section and section 1278a into those programs.

15 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of  
16 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited  
17 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure  
18 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and  
19 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a  
20 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the  
21 required credits, the board of the school district or board of  
22 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil  
23 has access to the required credits by another means, such as  
24 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary  
25 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;  
26 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a  
27 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or

1 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of  
2 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in  
3 another school district.

4 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit  
5 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a, or is  
6 identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school, then  
7 the pupil's school district or public school academy shall notify  
8 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least  
9 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the availability  
10 of tutoring or other supplemental educational support and  
11 counseling services that may be available to the pupil under  
12 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or  
13 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of  
14 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,  
15 Public Law 107-110.

16 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of  
17 2001, Public Law 107-110, the board of a school district or public  
18 school academy shall ensure that all components of the curricular  
19 requirements under this section and section 1278a are taught by  
20 highly qualified teachers. If a school district or public school  
21 academy demonstrates to the department that the school district or  
22 public school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this  
23 section because the school district or public school academy is  
24 unable to hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department  
25 shall work with the school district or public school academy to  
26 develop a plan to allow the school district or public school  
27 academy to hire enough highly qualified teachers to meet the

1 requirements of this section.

2 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a  
3 public school academy shall ensure that each pupil in grade 7 is  
4 provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development  
5 plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development  
6 plan before he or she begins high school. An educational  
7 development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the  
8 supervision of the pupil's school counselor or another designee  
9 qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a  
10 selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a  
11 career pathways program or similar career exploration program. In  
12 addition, if the pupil receives special education services, a  
13 school psychologist should also participate in developing the  
14 pupil's educational development plan.

15 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a  
16 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all  
17 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a  
18 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement  
19 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school  
20 district or public school academy may apply to the department for  
21 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this  
22 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public  
23 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the  
24 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the  
25 department determines that the plan will result in the school  
26 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress  
27 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and

1 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in  
2 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public  
3 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.  
4 However, if legislation is enacted that adds section 1290 to allow  
5 school districts and public school academies to apply for a  
6 contract that waives certain state or federal requirements, then  
7 this subsection does not apply but a school district or public  
8 school academy may take action as described in subsection (13).  
9 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated  
10 as a specialty school under section 1278a(5) and that is exempt  
11 under that section from the English language arts requirement under  
12 subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit requirement under  
13 section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

14 (13) If a school district or public school academy does not  
15 offer all of the required credits or provide options to have access  
16 to the required credits as provided under subsection (8) and if  
17 legislation is enacted that adds section 1290 to allow school  
18 districts and public school academies to apply for a contract that  
19 waives certain state or federal requirements, then the school  
20 district or public school academy is encouraged to apply for a  
21 contract under section 1290. The purpose of a contract described in  
22 this subsection is to improve pupil performance.

23 (14) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil  
24 from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the  
25 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a  
26 through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement,  
27 advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution,

1 or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an  
2 early college/middle college program.

3 (15) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall  
4 submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the  
5 overall success of the curriculum required under this section and  
6 section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the course work required  
7 by the curriculum, the ability of public schools to implement the  
8 curriculum and the required course work, and the impact of the  
9 curriculum on pupil success, and that details any activities the  
10 department has undertaken to implement this section and section  
11 1278a or to assist public schools in implementing the requirements  
12 of this section and section 1278a.